1989

Fall

NCNA *Journal*

N.C. N.A.

JOURNAL

FALL
1989

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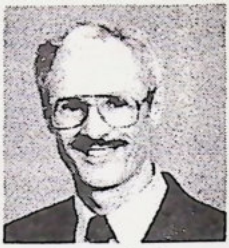

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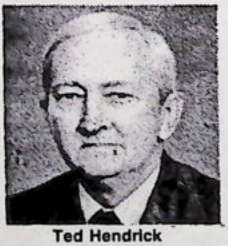

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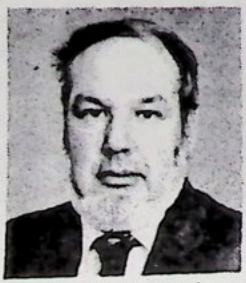

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CONDOLANCES

The North Carolina Numismatic Association sends their condolances to several members and their families because of deaths in the last year.

Dr. Paul Ausley, former director passed away early in the year after a long illness.

"Jim" Stewart a long-time member and a fixture at the registration desk of many an NCNA and Winston-Salem coin show died in the week after the just completed NCNA convention. Our sympathies go to her husband Lonnie, who is himself making a remarkable recovery from a severe stroke early in the year.

We wish to extend condolances to Bill Watts of Kannapolis whose daughter was killed by an automobile in her hometown.

We also send sympathy and best wishes to Secretary-Treasurer Russ Southworth who is recovering from a leg broken in two places while walking in his driveway. As Doc Campbell of Hew Haw says "Stay out of those places."

N C N A CONVENTION

DODGES HUGO

The 1989 convention of the North Carolina Numismatic Association was held September 29th through October 1 at the Bordeaux Inn in Fayetteville. The cheery location and a lot of help from members of both the Cumberland County and Cape Fear Coin Clubs made up for the rainy weather in Fayetteville that weekend. The rain was not associated the Hurricane Hugo which had struck South Carolina and western North Carolina just nine days before. Our sympathies go out to numismatists who suffered property damage and considerable inconvenience from the storm.

John Sweeny of Highlands, North Carolina presented a talk on Calendar Medals at the Educational Program on Saturday afternoon. Mr. Sweeny showed slides and the actual medals dating the 17th century to the present. These medals were more or less elaborate attempts to condense one or more years of the calendar onto a single metal disk.

At the the reception on Saturday evening, plaques were presented to the convention co-chairmen, Charles Kimber and John Wills. Exhibits chairman Autence Bason presented awards to exhibitors. Best in Show was won by Prabha Ramakrishnan of Raleigh for her exhibit "Coins of the East India Company." Junior Best in Show was won by Toby Sullivan. Other award winners included Steve Taylor and Bob Ross.

The Bason Literary Award was won by Trevor Robins for his two part article on Russian coinage. The Jimmy Jackson award was present to Toby Sullivan by James Jackson.

The reception ended with John J. Pittman swearing in the NCNA's newly elected officers. These officers are:

President:	D. Clark White
1st V. Pres	Autence Bason
2nd V. Pres	Forrest MIchael
Sec-Treasurer	Russ Southworth
Director	Halbert Carmichael
Director	Will Jordan
Director	Dr. E. E. Moore

Steve Taylor receiving placque from Autence Bason

Convention Co-Chairmen Charles Kimber and John Wills

Toby Sullivan getting Jimmy Jackson award from James Jackson

James Sweeny speaking at the Educational program

THE MEANING OF MINT LUSTER

by Dr. Robert Izydore

Most coin collectors are familiar with the term "mint luster" (or lustre). However, many are at a loss to describe it, and it is likely that most do not know the cause of it. The American Numismatic Association's "Official A.N.A. Grading Standards for the United States Coins" and James F. Ruddy's "New Photograde", the two most commonly used grading guides for U.S. coins, only devote two sentences each to define the term. The presence or absence of mint lustre is an important characteristic of a coin's surface, and it is to the collector's advantage to be able to recognize it and to understand its origin.

Mint luster is formed during the minting process. The surface of the die that strikes a planchet has slight irregularities. When the die strikes a blank planchet, metal flows into the recesses of the die and outward toward the rim. The irregularities in the die are reproduced on the surface of the coin. Moreover, the flowing metal scores the surface of the die with faint lines called flow lines. These flow lines become more pronounced as the die is used. The flow lines cause the formation of radials on the surface of the coin which fan out from the center and are most visible near the edge but are also visible near the raised design, letters, and date. The irregularities transferred from the die as well as the radials are readily observed under a microscope. The radials appear as tiny ridges and valleys. When light strikes the surface of the coin, it is reflected in all directions by the irregularities and radials, giving a soft diffuse appearance to the coin's surface. This appearance is sometimes referred to as mint frost.

A coin having mint luster will show the cartwheel effect. The cartwheel effect is similar to the effect shown by a rapidly rotating stagecoach wheel. The wheel will appear to be rotating slowly in a direction that is opposite to the actual direction of rotation. When a coin having full mint luster is tilted back and forth in the presence of a light source, the direction of the diffused light reflected off of the surface will change from clockwise to counterclockwise as the direction of the tilt is changed. The writer has found that the cartwheel effect is easier to observe if the light source is off to the side rather than directly over the surface of the coin and if only one light source or direction is present. Having more than one light source coming from different directions will produce more than one direction of reflection of light, causing the cartwheel effect to become obscured. It can sometimes be difficult to observe mint luster on a coin at a coin show. The brightness of the dealer's lamp will make the cartwheel effect difficult to observe, especially if it is directly over the coin. Sometimes it is helpful to move the lamp off to the side or to hold the coin a little below the top of the dealer's table.

Not all coins will exhibit the same degree of luster. The amount of luster present on a coin will vary depending on the extent of the irregularities and flow lines that were present on the dies used to strike it. As discussed above this extent changes over the lifetime of a die. Coins struck from new dies do not show as much luster as coins struck from older dies. Proof coins do not show mint luster. These coins have highly reflective mirror like surfaces. This is because the dies used to strike them are highly polished and do not

have the usual irregularities and flow lines. Coins struck for circulation from new dies (sometimes called "first strikes" or some similar term) often have prooflike surfaces. This phenomenon is commonly observed on uncirculated low mintage coins. An example is quarters minted in the 1880's, where the total mintage per year was under 16,000 pieces. Sometimes it is difficult to distinguish whether a particular coin from this era is a proof or a business struck piece. The writer recently examined at a major auction a toned 1880's quarter which was cataloged as a proof but exhibited a weak but definite cartwheel effect, indicating that the coin was actually a business struck piece. Morgan dollars and other type coins having prooflike surfaces often command a premium in price in the marketplace. Cameo prooflike coins (frosted devices and prooflike fields) often command even higher premiums. A weakly struck coin does not show regular luster on the raised flat areas because these parts of the coin's surface did not touch the dies during striking. A different texture dull luster will be present on these areas, which can be seen under a microscope. Mint luster is easier to observe on large size coins than on small coins. This is because these coins have more and larger radials (flow lines). Therefore, when learning to recognize the presence of mint luster on coins, these are good coins to practice on. Toning will tend to hide mint luster. Luster on a deeply toned coin may not be visible to the naked eye, but it can be observed under a stereo microscope. The composition of a coin as it relates to mint luster is not an important factor. However, it appears to the writer that luster on buffalo nickels is not as readily observed in terms of the cartwheel effect as luster on nickel coins of other design types.

An uncirculated coin will exhibit full mint luster. As a new coin is circulated the peaks of the radials on the high points of the design will bend and then gradually wear. This impairment of the luster will cause the cartwheel effect to no longer be perfect. As the coin is tilted, there will be a break in the cartwheel effect in those regions of the coin that have been worn, i.e. the highpoints of the coin. These regions will show a slightly different color than the rest of the coin and will appear duller than the lustrous regions. Coins grading almost uncirculated (AU) are sometimes dipped to remove the dullness. This causes the dull areas to become shiny. As the amount of wear increases, the extent of the break in the cartwheel effect also increases. Coins that grade extremely fine (EF or XF) will show the cartwheel effect near the edges and in the protected areas. A slight break in the cartwheel can be difficult for an inexperienced collector to observe. Many coins grading AU may appear to give a full cartwheel effect, when in actuality the cartwheel effect is present mainly in the fields and protected areas of the coin. It is important to observe whether or not the cartwheel effect is present on the devices (design elements) as well as in the fields. This can be difficult to ascertain near the center of the coin, but this can be done with experience. Examination under a stereomicroscope is very valuable for making this determination. A pocket light scope having a magnification of 30X is very useful for doing this at coin shows and in coin shops. At a bare minimum a good magnifying glass should be used. It is recommended that any "uncirculated" coin be examined for full luster (as well as for other important characteristics) before it is purchased. This is particularly important if the coin is expensive.

SIGN UP A NEW MEMBER TODAY

Use the attached membership application to do your part to help the North Carolina Numismatic Association by signing up a new member today. At A Board of Directors meeting, the Board created a new membership classification: Joint Membership. This allows two members of the same household, either husband and wife or parent and child, to both be full members of NCNA at a reduced rate. Both would have full voting privileges, but only one copy of the NCNA JOURNAL will be mailed to the Joint Members.

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Signature of Applicant

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NCNA HEADQUARTERS, P. O. BOX 20653
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BLUE RIDGE NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION 1989 CONVENTION

Nov 4-6, 1989

Quality Inn
East Ridge Exit
Chattanooga TN

Bourse Chairman:
Ruth Armstrong
Box 80052,
Chattanooga TN 37411,
Phone: 919-828-9450

COIN SHOW CALENDAR

LOCAL CHAIRMEN PLEASE NOTIFY THE EDITOR, Box 5625, Raleigh, NC 27650 of your plans as soon as possible to avoid conflicts. Information transmitted in writing is safer, but between issues inquiries and information can be recieved during evening hours at 919-832-4128. or during business hours at 919-828-9450.

NOVEMBER 1989

3-5 Blue Ridge Numismatic Association Convention, Quality Inn, East Ridge, Chattanooga TN, Ruth Armstrong, Box 80052, Chattanooga TN 37411

4-5 Carolina Coin and Stamp Shows, Mission Valley Inn, Raleigh NC, Ted Hendrick, Box 12052, Raleigh NC 27605

DECEMBER 1989

2-3 Cape Fear Coin Club, Sheraton Motor Inn, Fayetteville NC, John Wills, Box 40632, Fayetteville NC 28309

16-18 Charlotte Coin Club, Apparel Mart, Charlotte NC Don Sharpe, 6407F South Blvd, Charlotte NC 28217

JANUARY1990

4-7 F. U. N. Convention, Convention Center, Tampa FL, Ginger Bryan, Drawer D, Gainesville FL

20-21 Carolina Coin and Stamp Shows, Mission Valley Inn, Raleigh NC, Ted Hendrick, Box 12052, Raleigh NC 27605

FEBRUARY 1990

9-11 Peach State Coin Show, Waverly Hotel, Atlanta GA, Mike Griffith, Box 76482, Atlanta GA 30358

16-18 Charlotte Coin Club, Merchandise Mart, Charlotte NC Will Jordan, Box 33292, Charlotte NC 28233

16-18 Suburban Washington Coin Club, Festival Hall, Convention Center, Baltimore MD, Gordon Berg, Box 1876, Rockville MD 20850

23-25 Greenville Coin Club, Holiday Inn Roper Mtn Rd, Greenville SC, Don McA.ister, 2207 W. Parker Rd., Greenville SC 29611

MARCH 1990

2-4 American Numismatic Association Midwinter Convention, San Diego CF

3-4 Cumberland County Coin Club, Howard Johnson Plaza Hotel, Fayetteville NC, Charles Kimber, 3705 Florida Dr., Fayetteville NC 27664

17-18 Eagle Coin Club, National Guard Armory Lexington NC, Bob Woodruff, Box 424, Lexington NC 27292

23-25 Tennessee State Numismatic Society, Quality Inn, East Ridge, Chattanooga TN, Ruth Armstrong, Box 80052, Chattanooga TN 37411

MAY 1990

5-6 Winston-Salem Coin Club, Sprague Recaration Center, Winston-Salem NC, Lonnie Stewart, 1940 Dacian St., Winston-Salem NC 27107

19-20 Raleigh Coin Club, Quality Inn, Mission Valley, Raleigh NC, Halbert Carmichael, Box 5625, Raleigh, NC 27650

JUNE 1990

10-11 Carolina Coin & Stamp Conventions, Charlotte NC, Ted Hendrick

AUGUST 1990

22-26 American Numismatic Association Convention, Seattle WA

31-2 Sep Peach State Coin Show, Waverly Hotel, Atlanta GA, Mike Griffith, Box 76482, Atlanta GA 30358

SEPTEMBER 1990

10-11 Carolina Coin & Stamp Conventions, Charlotte NC, Ted Hendrick

NOVEMBER 1990

10-11 Carolina Coin & Stamp Conventions, Quality Inn, Mission Valley, Raleigh NC, Ted Hendrick

NORTH CAROLINIANS AT THE ANA CONVENTION

Plenty of North Carolinians were visible at the American Numismatic Association Covnention in Pittsburg, Pennsylvania in August. Dan Talbert and Bob Harmon, Louis Hudson, Mike Peykar, and Claude and Judy Murphy all had tables. Numerous additonal dealers and collectors were seen on the bourse floor. John Pittman had considerable input at the meetings of the Board of Governors and had a non-competitive exhibit that drew considerable attention..

North Carolinians were highly successful in the competitive exhibits. Russ Southworth won first among the exhibitors in the field of private mint medals. No city in the country can match Raliegh, North Carolina's contribution to the exhibits. Three members of the Raleigh Coin Club entered six exhibits and won six awards: Robert Schreiner won a third place award for his exhibit "Spanish Coins on Early Banknotes": Prabha Ramakrishnan won second place awards for "The Anthony Dollar" and "Coins of the East India Company." John Page won first place awards for "Coins of India, the British Period" and for "The Punchmarked Coins of Ancient India."

JOHN PAGE WINS BEST IN SHOW

The sixth award was the Howland Wood Award for Best in Show which John won with the "Punchmarked Coins of Ancient India".

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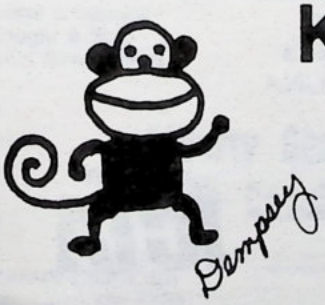

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